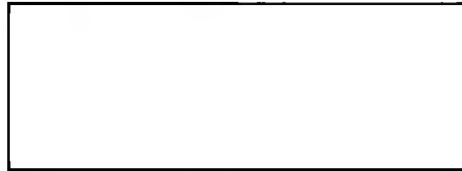


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EGYPT: Cairo is likely to pursue a cautious foreign policy.

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C EGYPT: EGYPTIAN OFFICIALS HAVE GIVEN FURTHER INDICATIONS THAT CAIRO IS LIKELY TO PURSUE A CAUTIOUS FOREIGN POLICY IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

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[REDACTED] IN DISCUSSIONS WITH MEMBERS OF THE US DELEGATION TO NASIR'S FUNERAL, HIGH EGYPTIAN OFFICIALS CONVEYED A SIMILAR WILLINGNESS TO PURSUE A POLITICAL SETTLEMENT WITH ISRAEL, BUT ALSO A LACK OF FLEXIBILITY IN THIS REGARD. ACTING PRESIDENT SADAT SAID THAT ALTHOUGH HE PERSONALLY HAD NOT AGREED WITH NASIR'S VIEW THAT THE PURSUIT OF A PEACEFUL SOLUTION TO THE MIDDLE EAST PROBLEM WAS DESIRABLE, HE WOULD CARRY OUT NASIR'S POLICY DURING HIS TENURE AS ACTING CHIEF OF STATE. HE SAID THAT HE WAS PREPARED TO DISCUSS POSSIBLE PROPOSALS FOR RECTIFICATION OF THE MISSILE SITUATION ALONG THE CANAL, BUT WOULD NOT ASK HIS MILITARY TO REMOVE EVEN ONE MISSILE FROM THIS AREA.

MINISTER OF STATE HAYKAL EMPHASIZED EGYPT'S DESIRE FOR A STABLE SOLUTION TO THE ARAB-ISRAELI PROBLEM, BUT REITERATED THE STANDARD EGYPTIAN LINE THAT NO VIOLATIONS OF THE CEASE-FIRE/STANDBY HAD OCCURRED, AND WENT ON TO SAY THAT IN ANY CASE CAIRO COULD NOT BE EXPECTED TO WITHDRAW MISSILE BATTERIES FROM THE CANAL. FOREIGN AFFAIRS ADVISER MAHMUD FAWZI SPOKE ALONG SIMILAR LINES, BUT STRESSED THE NECESSITY FOR MAINTAINING THE MOMENTUM OF PEACE EFFORTS. FAWZI REFERRED TO THE UNCERTAIN ATMOSPHERE THAT WAS BOUND TO PERVERSE THE EGYPTIAN SCENE FOR SOME TIME, AND WARNED AGAINST THE DANGERS OF LETTING THINGS DRIFT.

IN DISCUSSING VIOLATIONS OF THE CEASE-FIRE, FAWZI ALLEGED THAT ANY UNILATERAL WITHDRAWAL OF WEAPONS FROM THE CANAL ZONE WOULD IMMEDIATELY PROVOKE A DANGEROUS REACTION WITHIN THE COUNTRY. ONCE EGYPT WAS CONVINCED THAT ISRAEL ACCEPTED THE PRINCIPLE OF NO TERRITORIAL EXPANSION, OR IF CAIRO BELIEVED THAT THE US ACCEPTED THIS PRINCIPLE AND WAS WILLING TO APPLY PRESSURE TO THIS END, HOWEVER, THEN SUITABLE "RECTIFICATIONS" COULD TAKE PLACE.]

(continued)

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EGYPT'S PRESENT LEADERSHIP THUS APPEARS INTERESTED IN MAINTAINING THE MOMENTUM OF MIDDLE EAST PEACE EFFORTS. UNTIL THE ISSUE OF NASIR'S SUCCESSOR IS RESOLVED, AT LEAST, THEY PROBABLY WISH TO AVOID THE RENEWAL OF ACTIVE HOSTILITIES WITH ISRAEL. DOMESTIC UNCERTAINTIES, HOWEVER, MAKE IT UNLIKELY THAT THEY WILL MAKE ANY UNILATERAL CONCESSIONS TO MAINTAIN THE MOMENTUM OF THE PEACE EFFORT.

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